

NO PIER REVIEW

City records: Greenpoint ferry landing was never inspected — before or after collapse

EXCLUSIVE

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The city and the company that runs a ferry out of Greenpoint never inspected the soundness of the dock, even after it partially collapsed into the East River last winter, documents obtained by The Brooklyn Paper show.

A lone report provided in response to a public records request seeking inspections performed between 2010, when the India Street pier was being prepared for use by the East River Ferry, and October, 2014 shows that the only time an engineer looked at the dock was to monitor the replacement of the ferry landing float in July of last year. The float broke its moorings during a snowstorm in February, 2014, plunging the connecting gangway into the icy water moments after commuters crossed it.

The revelation comes as the city is planning a major citywide ferry expansion and Brooklyn pols are demanding that pier owner Red Sky Capital reveal what led to the India Street collapse, saying it has declined them and the city's Economic Development Corporation, which manages publicly subsidized private ferries.

"We are concerned that no public incident study has materialized a year later despite EDC's repeated requests," reads a letter to the company signed by State Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Greenpoint), Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Greenpoint), Councilman Steve Levin (D-Greenpoint), Congresswoman Carolyn



The gangplank that attaches the India Street pier to the ferry landing collapsed into the water on Feb. 13, 2014.

Maloney (D-Greenpoint), and Borough President Adams.

Ferry operator Billybey, which does not own the pier but is responsible for maintaining it, admitted shortly after the collapse that it never inspected the dock below the waterline, saying that its inspections consisted of an employee eyeballing it from above once a week.

It said that a preliminary investigation found that the two supports holding up the floating platform closest to the boat fell, causing the landing to float away from shore. The runaway float pulled the gangway, which was attached to the pier at the other end, breaking apart the ramp and sending it into the murky depths of the East River.

It is not clear why the supposed investigation was not included in the city's response to this paper's Freedom of Information Law request. Both Billybey and the Economic Development Corporation refused to turn over copies of inspection records in the year since. The city agency relies on the taxpayer-subsidized private ferry operators to self-report safety inspections and appears not to have any protocol for them to do so. Reps for the agency have declined to outline such a protocol.

The U.S. Coast Guard performs yearly inspections of maritime facilities, but only assesses security issues and the facility's ability to mitigate a hazardous materials

See **FERRY** on page 6



Commuter Stephanie Vevers of Greenpoint is a regular on the East River Ferry. She said the city and pier owner Red Sky Capital took too long to repair the dock after the landing came unmoored in early 2014. The collapse hasn't scared her into riding the G train, though.



Williamsburg and Greepoint activists from left, Jimmy Pav, Luke Beardon, Steve Chesler, Katie Naplatarski, Luke Piercifielf, Jens Rasmussen, Dewey Thompson, and Maggie Baker spent last Friday night out in the cold agitating for more green space on Kent Avenue.

Spotlight to shame city

Activists light up building to protest a broken park promise

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A group of Williamsburg and Greenpoint activists who want the city to make good on its promise to buy a handful of waterfront lots and complete Bushwick Inlet Park made their demands larger than life last weekend.

The rabble-rousers joined with artist Mark Read, who first used his Illuminator projector system to shine messages on buildings during Occupy Wall Street protests.

On March 13, the latest batch



The message changes.

of illuminated slogans called for the city to complete the waterfront park it promised as part of the 2005 rezoning that allowed luxury residential towers to rise along the Greenpoint and Williamsburg shoreline.

The catchphrases included: "The city reneges on promises and lies to residents;" "This right here is supposed to be a park;" and "DeBlasio to North Brooklyn: Park you!"

The recent fire that gutted the CitiStorage facility on Kent Avenue between N. 10th and N.

11th streets, one of the lots the city never got around to buying, brought renewed attention to the broken pledge.

The protesters cycled through projections on the side of a still-standing CitiStorage building for about two hours.

"It was a perfect way of bringing the story of this issue right to the site," said Greenpoint resident and activist Dewey Thompson.

The park lovers planned a rally outside City Hall on Thursday at 1 pm, after press time for this paper.

Hangout hazard

Daycare, senior centers in peril as city dawdles in lease talks

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

A Fort Greene community center could soon be without a home.

The 43-year-old Fort Greene Council, which runs youth and senior programs, as well as a jazz club out of its Fulton Street digs, is in danger of losing the building because the city is dragging its heels over a lease renewal. At a community forum in the building last week, the group's chairman said time is running out.

"We're in a crisis situation," said Sam Pinn, who helped found the Council. "This is a neighborhood institution serving seniors and children from two to 13 years

old, and providing cultural entertainment. We're now at a point where all this is in jeopardy."

The Fort Greene Council receives funding from several city agencies, including the Department for the Aging, the Administration for Children's Services, and the Department of Youth and Community Development. The city holds the lease for the four-story property at 966-972 Fulton St., between Cambridge Place and Grand Avenue, which has been owned by PV Associates since 1975. The landlord currently gets around \$530,000 per year for the property, according to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

That is less than half of the mar-



(Left to right) Millicente Thompson, Enid Sampson, and Jeroam Cumberbatch play a card game in the Fort Greene Council's Grace A. Harewood Senior Center. Francine Deloatch reads to her students at the Fort Greene Council daycare center. Wynton Marsalis blows his horn for an adoring crowd at Jazz 966 last year. All three activities are in danger as the city drags its heels in lease talks with the landlord of the building that contains it all.

ket rate for similar properties in the area, according Chris Havens, a commercial broker for aptsandlofts.com. But, more importantly, he said the city simply would not be able to find another space for the programs to move into.

"It's not a question of a specific number," Havens said. "It's more about finding space. There's just not anything like that anywhere

around there."

The city will not say how much of an increase the landlord is seeking, but Pinn called it "moderate," and the landlord says he wants to keep the Council in its space.

"We have a wonderful relationship with the Fort Greene Council, and [have] for quite a long time. We'd like nothing more than to extend their lease," Jim

Argento said.

If he means it, the city should do what it can to keep the facility where it is, Havens said.

"Any tenant that can make that deal should make that deal," he said. "Brooklyn just doesn't have that much commercial space."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, which handles city leas-

ing, said negotiations are ongoing, but that officials are not yet close to reaching a deal.

"DCAS and the landlord have exchanged several proposals, but are still far apart on agreeing on a rent per square foot," said Cathy Hanson, spokeswoman for the department.

About 80 seniors use the Grace A. Harewood Senior Center each

day, and 120 students attend the Young Minds Day Care Center, according to management. But more than low-impact aerobics and finger-painting classes are at stake. On Fridays, a room in the senior center is transformed into Jazz 966, a swinging nightclub that has served as a stopover for jazz greats since 1990. Wynton Marsalis, Dakota

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Staten Island’s verdict

This grand jury charges Slope pol’s aide with fraud

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

A Staten Island grand jury’s indictment of a Park Slope councilman’s aide for alleged campaign finance fraud shows a double standard that further calls into question the handling of the Eric Garner case, a good-government group charges.

Rachel Goodman, chief of staff for Councilman Brad Lander (D–Park Slope), pleaded not guilty to the charges on Wednesday in

Staten Island. She is accused of submitting false statements to the city Campaign Finance Board and perjury stemming from work she did for the campaign of Councilwoman Deborah Rose (D–Staten Island). The indictment, which comes after two years of investigation by Roger Adler, a district-attorney-appointed special prosecutor, is a troubling bypass of the city’s Campaign Finance Board, according to Citizens Union, a good-gov-

ernment group. The organization’s head pointed out that Staten Island District Attorney Dan Donovan took no such steps in the case of the high-profile police killing of Garner, a Gowanus native.

“It’s odd that Dan Donovan didn’t hire or retain a special prosecutor for the Eric Garner case but felt the need to retain one for alleged campaign finance violations that are normally handled by the Campaign Finance Board,” Citizens Union director Dick Dadey said. “The difference of scale between the two and the different responses is kind of mind-boggling.”

The national government watchdog group Common Cause echoed the sentiment. “The New York City Campaign Finance Board has shown itself to be a fierce and capable watchdog of the city’s much-admired campaign finance system,” the group’s New York director Susan Lerner said in a statement released on Feb. 26, two days after the indictment came down.

Goodman is charged along with two others who prosecutors say lied to the finance board in filings about donations to Rose’s campaign. Specifically, she is accused of undervaluing work she did on behalf of the Rose campaign.

Goodman’s name was redacted from the original indictment, but the charges came to light in a March 5 New York Times column questioning the

prosecution. Lander dismissed the charges as baseless and called the prosecution “bullying.” “I stand by Rachel Goodman 100 percent,” Lander said in a statement. “She is a dedicated, ethical, smart, hard-working public servant, who should not be subjected to this prosecutorial bullying.”

In 2009 Goodman worked for Data and Field Services, a now-defunct affiliate of the union-backed Working Families Party set up to help campaigns. At the heart of the indictment are allegations that Data and Field Services provided discount services to the Rose campaign but failed to list the discount as a campaign contribution, as required by the state’s regulations.

Data and Field Services worked on nine campaigns that election, and Goodman worked on five of those, including those of Rose, Lander, and Councilman Jumaane Williams (D–East Flatbush), according to Lander. With the exception of the Rose campaign, the Campaign Finance Board has audited all of those campaigns and cleared them of any criminal violations. It did find Williams’s campaign failed to report various contributions, including a failure to document in-kind contributions, and fined him a total of \$5,994 for it, which is how such paperwork omissions are typically dealt with. The failure to document in-kind contributions carried no fine.



Councilman Brad Lander’s chief of staff Rachel Goodman, center, is facing criminal charges.

The Campaign Finance Board paused its audit of the Rose campaign in 2012, when Staten Island District Attorney and current Republican congressional candidate Dan Donovan recused himself and a judge appointed Adler. The special prosecutor knows a thing or two about campaign finance law, having represented former Brooklyn Democratic boss Clarence Norman when he faced charges of extortion, soliciting illegal campaign contributions, and stealing from his reelection committee. Norman was convicted in 2007 and served less than two years of a three-to-nine-year sentence.

Lander blasted the appointment of Adler and blamed Donovan for it, saying it circumvented the normal process and handed the case to a Democratic-machine operative with an agenda against the insurgent Working Families Party.

“I remain disappointed that Staten Island District Attorney Dan Donovan sought a special prosecutor to begin with,” Lander said in a statement. “Instead, the special prosecutor who was appointed has trumped up a wild and unsupported conspiracy theory, for his own purposes. Roger Adler has the right to hold a grudge against the Working Families Party. But it is shameful for him to indict innocent individuals.”

Activists and commentators called for the appointment of a special prosecutor to handle the investigation of the death of Eric Garner, who objected to being stopped by officers, supposedly on suspicion of selling loose cigarettes. Donovan and Gov. Cuomo did not heed the demand, and a grand jury’s failure to indict Officer Daniel Pantaleo, the cop who choked Garner to the ground, sparked months of protests.

A spokesman for Donovan declined to comment on Adler’s appointment. Goodman declined to comment through Lander.

Too hot to panel

Group pulls out of park watchdog body

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Heights’ community board is pulling a Switzerland and backing out of the battle for Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Community Board 2 chairwoman Shirley McRae withdrew the board’s representative from the private park’s Community Advisory Council last week, saying the watchdog advisory panel is too critical of park management.

“The discourse at and resultant actions of the CAC often appear to be adversarial to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation,” she wrote in a letter to park president Regina Myer. “When the two entities are continually of such disparate perspective and opinion, it creates a dysfunctional dynamic that I no longer want the community board to be a party to.”

The Community Advisory Council, which makes recommendations about the park’s development and ad-



ministration to the board of directors, has broken sharply with management on a number of issues in recent months. It called for a new environmental study to be performed before work begins on two buildings on Pier 6; a detailed accounting of the park’s finances to justify the need for those buildings — the last of

visory, but they never take our advice. So, it is contentious, no doubt about it.”

The administrator of the community board, which advises the city on issues affecting Downtown, Fort Greene, and Brooklyn Heights, said that is just not his group’s style.

“That’s not how we do business,” district manager Robert Perris said. “And we don’t want to be part of an organization that does.”

He emphasized that the community board is not pulling its representative, Andrew Lastowecky, because of disagreements over particular issues, but rather because of the council’s attitude.

“It’s the tone of the discourse,” he said.

Sandy Balboza, a member of the advisory council, pointed out that McRae has never attended one of its meetings, and said the issues the council raises come from members of the local community.

“We present all of the issues, we discuss them, and we vote on them,” Balboza said. “This is a very controversial park and a controversial park plan.”

The recent conflicts with the park administration are a result of growing anger over many aspects of how the green-space-centered development scheme is being handled.

“Things are changing on the CAC because everyone’s mad about something,” she said.

Koteen is puzzled by the community board’s decision, and is growing frustrated with the structure put in place by the park’s administration for its own governance, since the advisory council, at the end of the day, has no real say.

“If we’re there to advise, and no one’s listening, what’s the point?” she said. “We can’t get no respect.”

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Prospect Lefferts groceries

Another food co-op for a park-side neighborhood

By David Russell
for The Brooklyn Paper

Prospect Lefferts Gardens’ answer to the Park Slope Food Co-Op is up and running.

The Lefferts Community Food Co-operative started up late last year at 324 Empire Blvd. and is currently open to members two days a week. The store is the culmination of five years of planning by locals, many of whom had memberships at the famous granola grocer across Prospect Park, and who wanted a similarly affordable option closer to home.

“People like to shop locally,” said Karen Oh, an organizer and former Slope co-operator. “Not in a trendy way. They just like to put money and resources into their own neighborhood.”

The store has 200 members so far and is looking to expand, she said.

The core group of organizers moved to open the shop without more buy-in under the belief that if they built it, the members would come.

“The thinking was, ‘People move, they may not want to invest and wait. We have to open the store.’” Oh said. “People don’t have the income and patience to join an idea.”

The founders appear to have been right, as about half of the current members



Lefferts Community Food Co-operative members, from left, Trevoro Stokos, Rebecca Renaud, and Joanna Ingalls enjoy the fruits of their labor.

joined after the store got up and running, she said.

Owners of neighborhood supermarkets need not worry about the upstart stealing their business, according to Oh.

“We have a lot of organic products. It’s not going to be for everyone. We don’t offer everything,” she said.

The co-op is currently open to members on Thursdays from 4 pm to 8:30 pm and on Sundays from 11 am to 6 pm. To join, members pay a \$25 fee and a refundable \$25–\$100 investment sum, and pledge to

work a two-hours-and-45-minutes shift every month. The model is based on the member-worker approach of the Park Slope co-op, and the two operations are cooperating to the point that members of the Slope store can count shifts at the Lefferts store towards their work requirements.

The head of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce hailed the Lefferts store.

“The Brooklyn Chamber is happy when any new business opens in the borough, particularly one that will increase

residents’ access to fresh and healthy produce,” Chamber head Carlo Scissura wrote in an e-mail.

The opening comes as Windsor Terrace’s nascent food co-operative, also modeled after the Slope store, is holding its first meetings and working to build out a storefront on Caton Avenue, just over the Kensington border. That shop is set to open on March 21.

For more information visit www.leffertsfoodcoop.org and www.windsorterracefoodcoop.com.

Own a piece of Etsy

Online craft market hitting stock exchange

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Etsy is going public.

The online marketplace where craftspeople can hawk crocheted stockings with deer on them is getting ready to sell some plain old stocks, according to papers filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Etsy, which Rob Kalin founded in his Fort Greene apartment in 2005, is looking to raise \$100 million with its initial pub-



Etsy head Chad Dickerson

lic offering, the documents show.

Now headquartered in Dumbo, the company is set to move into larger digs in 2016, inside the Jared Kushner-owned Dumbo Heights complex. And with the help of a \$5-million tax-break, it plans to bring on an additional 300 workers, which would nearly double its Brooklyn workforce. This paper named Etsy one of the 15 to Watch in 2015, in part because of the

possibility of an initial public offering.

The company makes money by charging its sellers a fee for every sale. It generated \$196 million in revenue last year, up from \$125 million the year before. But, it still failed to turn a profit, losing \$15 million last year. Etsy’s 1.4-million sellers fared far better, generating \$1.93 billion in 2014 with sales to 19.8-million customers.

The ticker symbol, which will be listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange, will be “ETSY.” It is not yet clear how many stocks the company will issue or how much they will cost.



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Bad Samaritan offers crash help, robs man

88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene–Clinton Hill
A menacing mechanic robbed a man who he offered to help after a crash on S. Oxford Street on March 5, cops said.

The victim said he smashed up his ride between Atlantic Avenue and Hanson Place at 10:55 pm. After the accident, the fiend approached and asked if he needed an auto-body shop to repair his car, according to a report.

The not-so-good Samaritan slipped into the passenger seat while talking to the victim, then pulled out a black gun, officers said. The goon demanded the man's valuables, grabbed his wallet, Burberry scarf, and headphones, then walked off towards Fulton Street, cops said.

Gamergate

A burglar busted into a Waverly Avenue apartment on March 6, and stole a video-game system and a laptop, according to the authorities.

The victim said he left the building between Myrtle and Park avenues at 9 am, and did not return until 9 pm. When he arrived, he noticed his front door damaged and his electronics were missing, law enforcement officials said.

Lotto looting

Some no-goodniks stole a bunch of lottery tickets from

a Flatbush Avenue pharmacy on March 7, police said. Officers responded to a call about the store between Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street at 5:30 am, and when they arrived the glass front door was smashed, the security gate had been pried open, and lottery tickets were scattered across the floor, according to officers.

The owner arrived and told cops that 10 books of scratch-offs were taken, worth a total of \$5,000.

Inside job

Cops cuffed a man who they say stole \$20,000 from a Kent Avenue armored car service sometime between Oct. 23 and Nov. 17, according to a police report.

Employees of the company between Keap and Hooper streets said the suspect stole the cash sometime between 5 pm on Oct. 23 and 9 am on Nov. 17, while he was working for them.

They reported the theft March 3, and police arrested the accused the same day.

Cereal stealer

Someone stole \$2,500 that a woman had stashed in a cereal box inside of a refrigerator in her room at a Carlton Avenue homeless shelter, on March 3 or 4, NYPD officials said.

The victim said she last saw the cash in the shelter

between Park and Myrtle avenues at 2 pm on March 3. She went to retrieve some money to go shopping at 1:30 pm the next day, and it was gone, a report says.

She said some of her friends at the shelter knew she had the money, and that they could come and go from her room as they pleased, per cops.

Grand thefts

Drivers had a hard time holding onto their cars in the precinct this week. Three were reported stolen, according to police. Here's the rundown:

- Someone took a Ford Explorer from Vanderbilt Avenue on March 3, the authorities said.

The owner said she went to pick up her sports utility vehicle from its parking space between Greene and Gates avenues at 8:15 am, but it was already gone.

- The next day a thief made off with a Plymouth Voyager that the owner had left on Clifton Place, officers said.

The victim said he parked his mini-van between Grand and Classon avenues at 2 am, and when he went to get it at 9:30 am, it was gone.

- A menace also drove off with a Mercury Mariner from Waverly Avenue on March 8, according to officials.

The owner said she left it between Greene and Gates av-

POLICE BLOTTER

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enues at 12:15 pm, and went to get it an hour later, but it was gone. She also reported the car had been taken from her on Nov. 29, and that officers recovered it in Crown Heights on Jan. 15, but that the ignition key was never found.

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

Bag man

Cops cuffed a man who they say stole two bags from an Atlantic Avenue gym on Feb. 20 and 24, while the owners played basketball.

- The first victim said he left his backpack next to the court in the gym between Court Street and Boerum Place at 2:30 pm on Feb. 20.

He noticed the bag gone five hours later, cops said. The bag contained \$20 in cash, a pair of Jordans, a leather jacket, a cellphone, and other items, according to police.

- The second victim said he was playing ball on Feb. 24 from 3:08 until 3:26 pm. At the end of his game, he no-

ticed the bag, which contained \$16 in cash, a debit card, an electronic music player, a cellphone, and other items, had been taken, officers said.

In both case, security footage supposedly shows the suspect take the bag into the bathroom, remove the goods, and leave, according to a police report. Cops picked up the accused on Feb. 24, the report says.

Chopper down

Someone swiped a motorcycle from Dean Street sometime between Feb. 17 and Feb. 22, according to police.

The victim said he left his blue 2015 Bavarian Motor Works between Court Street and Boerum Place at 7 am on Feb. 17. When he returned four days later at 10 am, it was gone, cops said.

Uninvited

A bandit burgled a Schermerhorn Street apartment on Feb. 24 while the victim was out running errands, police said.

The victim said she left the building between Court Street and Boerum Place at 11 am, and did not return until 6:30

pm. When she got in she noticed her laptop and a bunch of jewelry was gone from the apartment, according to the authorities.

The rings, necklaces, watch, and bracelets are worth \$27,850, the victim said.

D-feat

A sneak stole a woman's wallet onboard a D train on Feb. 24, a report says.

The victim said she boarded the Brooklyn-bound train at Grand Street on the distant island of Manhattan at 5:40 pm, and that a ne'er-do-well followed her on. The fiend was standing close behind her when she felt a sharp tug on her purse, and when the train stopped at the Atlantic Avenue–Barclays Center station, he disembarked, and she subsequently noticed her wallet gone, according to the NYPD.

Stair-master

Another pickpocket struck at the Atlantic Avenue–Barclays Center station on Feb. 25, removing a victim's cellphone from her backpack as she ascended the stairs, officers said.

The victim said she got off of a Coney-Island-bound D train at 5:40 pm and headed up the stairs. A witness told her that the crook unzipped her bag and removed the phone, and pointed out the thief, cops said.

The victim confronted the scoundrel and she denied any wrongdoing, saying, "I didn't take anything," then scrambled, according to a police report.

In foot traffic

Police arrested a teen who they say bit an officer and resisted arrest on Feb. 27, after he and three friends blocked a staircase leading out of the Hoyt-Schermerhorn subway station.

A cop reported that the teens were preventing people from moving up the stairs of the station at 5:32 pm. When officers approached the group, the suspect supposedly became agitated and refused to budge and bit one on both hands, according to a report.

Gang mean

A group of goons punched a teen in the face on Smith Street and tried to steal his phone on Feb. 27, cops said.

The victim said he was between Dean and Bergen streets at 3:50 pm when the quarrelsome quintet came up and demanded his phone. When he refused, one of the toughs punched him in the face, fracturing his nose, according to a police report.

The fiends took off running without the phone, and emergency medical workers took the teen to New York Methodist Hospital, the report says.

Cutout

A careful crook cut a man's pockets and removed his phone and wallet while he slept on an N train on March 1, cops said.

The victim said he was sleeping on the Coney-Island-bound train and woke up at 5:30 am at the Atlantic Avenue–Barclays Center station to find his pockets cut. The rapscallion made off with a cellphone and a wallet, which contained \$1,000 in cash, debit, and credit cards, according to officers.

Phone-y biz

A pair of crooks stole four cellphones from a Montague Street store on Feb. 25, according to law enforcement officials.

An employee said the deceptive duo came into the store between Henry and Clinton streets at 7:57 pm, grabbed two phones each, and fled. The worker did not see the incident happen, but video footage shows the quick-moving thieves at work, a report says.

— Matthew Perlman

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook

Rubber room

Cops arrested a Queens man and a Long Island man on March 3 who they say swiped condoms and toiletries from the same pharmacy on Court Street in two separate incidents.

Security at the store between First and Second places detained the Queens suspect at about 1 pm after they said he stuffed 21 boxes of Trojan condoms, worth \$417.59, into his bag. When cops cuffed him, they found a pipe containing crack-cocaine residue, according to a report.

Security detained the Long Island man at 9:25 pm on the same day after they say he tried to walk out of the store with \$58 worth of body wash and razors.

Knife play

Two toughs stuck a man up on March 3 on Bond Street, according to a report.

The victim was at Baltic Street in Boerum Hill at 10:10 pm when the treacherous two-some approached, and as one brandished a knife the other punched the guy in the face, cutting his lip, cops said.

The brutes snatched \$20 worth of food and a black iPhone 4, then took off on foot in the direction of Hoyt Street, according to officers.

Blackout

A man reported an assault several weeks after he said an unidentified attacker knocked him out cold outside of a bar on Court Street.

The victim reported walking out of the bar between Congress and Warren streets at about 4 am on Feb. 26 and having a ruffian clock him in the face, fracturing his jaw and causing a fall that resulted in a fractured rib and a concussion, cops said.

The victim went to a hospital for his injuries two days later but did not report the assault until March 3, according to a report.

In and out

A burglar swiped jewelry

and electronics from an apartment on First Place on March 5, the authorities said.

The victim left her building between Court and Smith streets at 8 am and returned at 4:20 pm to find her pad ransacked, though there was no trace of forced entry, officers said.

The sneak made off with a tennis bracelet worth \$4,500, a gold watch worth \$500, a diamond ring worth \$200, a silver iPad worth \$600, and \$150 in cash, according to law enforcement officials.

— Noah Hurowitz

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Thief's dream

A goon stole a strap-hanger's phone after she fell asleep on a 95th Street-bound R train on Feb. 28, cops said.

The victim left her iPhone 6 on her lap as she conked out between 7:30 pm and 8 pm, and when she awoke, the cellphone was gone, according to the NYPD.

Fence hopper

A burglar stole \$400 from a 65th Street business on March 4, police said.

The prowler climbed a rear fence and pried open a security gate to the building between Ninth and 10th avenues in Borough Park between 1 pm and 2 pm, according to a report. The thief left a tool behind, the report states.

Window pain

A cat burglar climbed through a kitchen window and took cash and jewelry from a 99th Street home on March 4, according to the authorities.

The intruder crept into the house between Ridge Boulevard and Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge sometime between 12:20 pm and 1:50 pm, removing \$2,000 in cash and an estimated \$5,000 in jewelry, officials said.

— Max Jaeger

90TH PRECINCT

Southside–Bushwick

G men

A pair of robbers jumped a guy on Lorimer Street on March 7 as he was on his way home from a bar, cops said.

The victim said that he was in back of a building between Ten Eyck and Stagg streets at 4 am when the two galoots asked him for directions to the G train.

The victim started give directions, but one of the jokers choked him and his accomplice went into the mark's pockets and stole his phone and wallet, according to a police report. Then both scoundrels scrambled, the report says.

Fries with that?

A goon attacked a guy inside of a Metropolitan Avenue diner on March 7, according to the authorities.

The victim said that he was at the eatery near Union Avenue at 4:50 am when one of the punk patrons hit him over the head with a glass cup out of nowhere, cutting his head, a report says.

The attacker and his crew rushed out of the place, and emergency responders took the victim to Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

Drive-by slash

A crew of cretins jumped out of a car on Keap Street on March 8 and attacked a man, cutting him and stealing his money, cops said.

The victim said that he was at S. Second Street at 6:15 am when the mob of miscreants jumped out of the gray Nissan Ultima, put the victim in a chokehold, and rummaged through his pockets.

The gang grabbed \$220 from him, then one pulled a knife, slashed him across the stomach, and drove off, according to a report. The victim checked himself into Mount Sinai Beth Israel later in the day, per police.

Shot in the dark

Someone shot a young man in the foot outside of a Manhattan Avenue building on March 7, law enforcement officials said.

The victim said that he was in front of a building between Moore and Varet streets at 11:21 pm when he caught a slug in his foot. He refused to tell police who shot him, a report says.

Fast food

A pair of punks robbed a delivery driver at knifepoint on Havemeyer Street on March 2, officers said.

A victim said that he was near Hope Street at 12:40 am when the treacherous twosome cornered him.

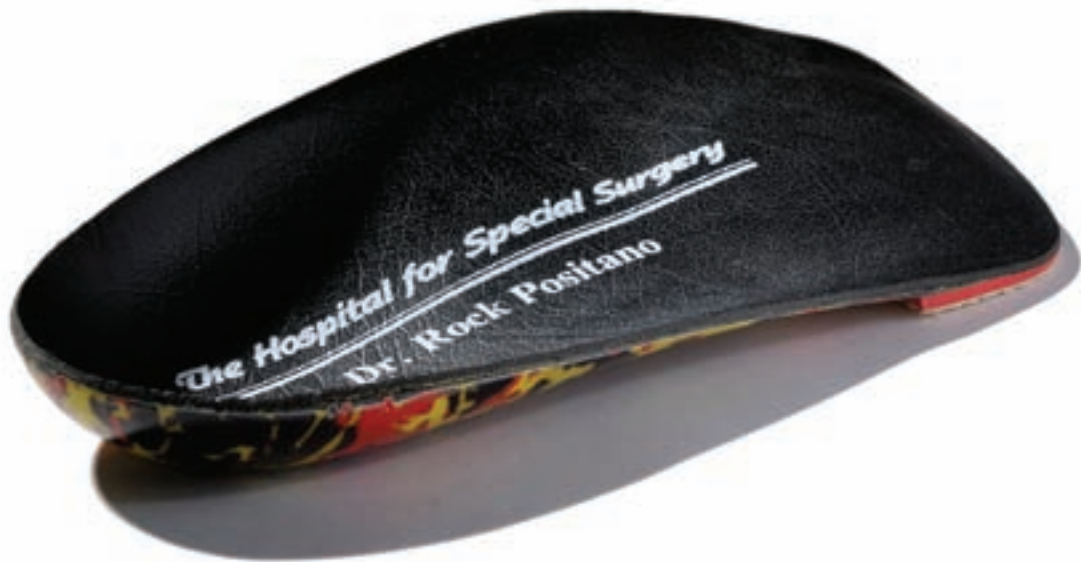
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PACKED IN AT PS 8

Heights school so crowded that city killed pre-K

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn Heights elementary school is feeling the squeeze of area development, and it is only going to get more packed, parents say.

PS 8, on Hicks Street between Poplar and Middagh streets is over-capacity, has had to cut its prekindergarten program, and is in danger of losing its art and music rooms next year. The school's parent-teacher association is raising the alarm over the need for more classrooms as new residential developments bring in even more students.

"The problem is bad, and it's getting worse," said Ansley Samson, co-president of the PS 8 Parents and Teachers Association.

The school has 28 classrooms and 703 students this year, which is 254 more students than the School Construction Authority recommends, according to a report that agency issued last year.

The parent-teacher group said that the number of classes in each grade has been steadily increasing each year, with three fifth-grade classes set to graduate, and six kindergarten classes ready to move on to first grade. And with 30 more kindergartners already pre-registered for next year than this year, the schoolhouse is set to get further stuffed to the gills.

In the past, classes have been folded together, but if the school needs space for as many students as the current pre-registration suggests while accounting for the smaller graduating class, that alone will not be enough to accommodate all the kids.

"I don't see a world where we don't lose our music room next year," Samson said.

This would not be the first time that happened. The school was without a music room last year, but got it back after the city canceled the two prekindergarten classes that were housed in the school,



Photo by Jason Speakman



Ansley Samson and Kim Glickman (left), co-presidents of PS 8's parent-teacher association, are concerned that the city is not moving fast enough to help alleviate overcrowding at their school. There are already 254 more students at Brooklyn Heights' PS 8 than the education department recommends.

construction of new housing in Dumbo, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and Brooklyn Heights will hasten the situation in their neighborhood.

"It's a big problem, and a problem across the city," Samson said. "But a part of the issue in our district is how fast the problem is growing."

The Department of Education has plans for 1,090 new school seats in PS 8's district over the next five years, which could be either elementary or middle-school seats.

The city also estimates that by 2021, 7,547 new apartments will have been built in the district since PS 8's annex was added. Using the city's own formula, that would require around twice as many seats as it has in the pipeline.

opening up more space.

The school's other parent-teacher president, Kim Glickman, wonders how canceling prekindergarten classes washes with Mayor DeBlasio's plan to get every kid in the city enrolled in such a program.

"It seems a little ironic given Mayor DeBlasio's push for universal pre-K," she said.

Parents say that there is little to be done for next school year. Instead, they are looking to the following year, and

asking the Department of Education for a long-term solution.

"As parents all we can do is raise the issue," Glickman said.

The city increased capacity at PS 8 in 2011 with an annex that added seven classrooms, but those have all been filled. Samson and Glickman acknowledge that overcrowding is a citywide issue and is not limited to PS 8. They submitted testimony at a Council hearing about the issue last week. But the

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Filling the breach

Techies to Brooklyn: Put up this firewall

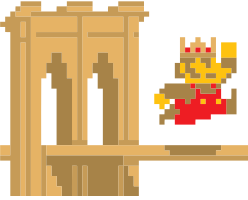
By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

They’ve got the keys to making your phone or computer an encryption castle.

The Open Web Application Security Project, an international organization that works to improve software security, launched a Brooklyn chapter late last year. One of the local organizers said it is important to have a Kings County group, since so many independent software companies have offices here.

“The smaller companies may not be so security conscious,” said Israel Bryski, whose day job is on the technology security team of an investment bank. “Or they don’t have the funding and expertise needed to make their software secure.”

The cyber security group tries to make secure software



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Eye on technology and innovation in Brooklyn

accessible so that even tiny startups incorporate policies and practices that insure their data remains safe. It hosts conferences, lectures, and training sessions to raise awareness and help solve problems through experienced volunteers. The group provides information on

ever-evolving security practices and vulnerabilities that can be difficult for developers to stay on top of on their own, said Bev Corwin, another organizer.

“It takes a lot of work to keep up with it,” she said.

Bryski said that as more software is designed to be accessed over the internet, developers could be inadvertently creating entry points that allow hackers to steal information.

“If they’re not built properly, it’s easy to reach right through the software and get to the data on the back end,” he said.

The risks are enormous, Corwin said.

“It’s beyond comprehension. It’s a huge problem,” she said. “OWASP is at the front lines of that.”

She added that many universities do a poor job of teaching graduates about how to make safe software, saying her group aims to fill the void between reality and academia.

“It’s sad and it’s shocking, but it’s true,” she said. “This is a bridge between industry and education.”

Volunteers and guest speakers for the group generally fall into three categories: builders, defenders, and breakers. Builders design the basic software, defenders implement security measures, and breakers uncover vulnerabilities by trying to hack into the system. There is a lot of overlap, said Bryski, who considers himself a defender.

“We try to think like a bad guy, and figure out how they would break in,” he said. “Then we block the holes we find.”



Israel Bryski, an organizer of the new Brooklyn chapter for the Open Web Application Security Project, wants to help people make software that is secure.

The international group has 42,000 participants and has been around for 14 years, according to its website. The size of the New York City chapter, which has more than 1,800 members, led organizers to start founding offshoot chapters including the new Brooklyn one. After only three meetings the group has signed up 155 members. One of the chapter leaders speculates that the interest has a lot to do with the borough’s collaborative spirit.

“The culture itself helps a lot,” said Donald Gooden. “There’s a willingness to come together, and to put in the time.”

Techno Files

The second annual Brooklyn Tech Triangle U took place this week, highlighting the tech ecosystem connecting Downtown, Dumbo,

and the Navy Yard. All of the local universities participated, along with a bunch of area companies. If you missed out on the in-real-life festivities, some of the panel discussions are being posted to Vimeo. Check out the keynote, a talk about companies that use new tools to improve on old-school industries, featuring speakers from New Lab, Gilt, The Awl, and Amplify.

... In case you missed it, the developers behind the revitalization of Sunset Park’s Industry City announced a \$1 billion overhaul of the 16-building waterfront facility. They are hoping to turn the manufacturing hub into a tech center including design, engineering, manufacturing, and retail space. But the whole deal hinges on a decidedly low-tech problem: parking.

Watering hole

Greenpointers fear planned barge bar

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A planned floating East River bar off the Greenpoint shore will inundate the surrounding area with sloppy drunks who will trash Transmitter Park, peace-and-quiet-loving neighbors predict.

“They are going to drink at the barge and then come out and puke and piss in the park,” Rolf Carle said.

The entrepreneurs behind the Brooklyn Barge Bar pitched it to Community Board 1’s liquor committee in late February, and members demanded they come back on March 31 with more information and proof of permits from the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The partners have rented a strip of waterfront land near Transmitter Park from controversial real estate mogul Joshua Guttman and plan to build a gangway to a barge floating beside it, one said. The bar is set to sit on the vessel, and a restaurant serving grilled dishes is planned for the land. The establishment will lure people to the river who wouldn’t go otherwise, he said.

“You would be surprised at



Business partners from left, Matt Perricone, Will Drawbridge, and Thomas Morgan stand in front of the planned home of Brooklyn Barge Bar, near Transmitter Park.

how many people have never gone down to the water,” Will Drawbridge said. “This will give them something to come down for.”

The owners plan for the business to be family-friendly during the day and adult-oriented at night, he said. Drawbridge’s view of Transmitter Park differs dramatically from local activists’ framing of it as a place under siege. He and his partners plan to build bath-

rooms and kayak storage there because the space needs more people using it, he said.

“Those things do not build revenue, but the Greenpoint waterfront is under-utilized, so we might as well use it,” Drawbridge said.

Drawbridge gained his outdoor grill chops as a long-time employee of the Flying Pan, a similar venture on a barge docked on the Hudson River in Manhattan.

Sunset Park at crossroads

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

A plan to invest nearly \$1 billion of private money in Sunset Park’s Industry City could bring hundreds of new parking spots to an area where car space is at a premium, but the proposal relies on the city playing ball.

The leadership of the industrial park unveiled a massive redevelopment plan on March 9 that envisions adding a 400-room hotel, nearly 16 football fields worth of retail space, and more than four times that much space dedicated to technology startups and high-

tech manufacturing. But the plan hinges on the city-owned South Brooklyn Marine Terminal hosting a new parking lot serving people who work and shop at Industry City, and possibly the public as well.

The area’s councilman blocked a city plan to redevelop the terminal in December, but Industry City’s president, who is promising the redevelopment will create 20,000 jobs, said he needs local cops and officials to come together on parking and other infrastructure improvements to make the proposed 12-year investment program feasible.

“What we’ve been clear

about is one thing—in order to succeed here, we’re going to need additional parking,” Andrew Kimball said.

The 16-building campus currently has just 450 spots. For comparison, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which is four-fifths of Industry City’s size, has more than 3,500 parking spots, said Kimball, who headed the Navy Yard’s redevelopment from 2005 to 2013.

Kimball wants the city to build a five-acre parking lot—roughly the size of four football fields—in a corner of the 88-acre South Brooklyn Marine Terminal.




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Erin go Bklyn!

County Kings serves pints of St. Paddy's Day excitement

By The Brooklyn Paper Boozer Bureau
The Brooklyn Paper

It's the time of the year for green beer — Saint Patrick's Day is on Tuesday — and you may be overwhelmed by the number of bars offering it alongside Guinness, corned beef, and cabbage. To ease your sense of vertigo, we have drafted a handy list of standout pubs and what they have planned for the occasion.

For the music lover

Irish Haven: Sunset Park's Irish Haven is hosting live music on Sunday and opens at 8 am on Saint Patrick's Day, but head back on March 22 for a performance by musician Sean Sands, brother of the legendary Irish republican Bobby Sands, 8 pm to 11 pm. [4721 Fourth Ave. at 58th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 439-9893]

For the aesthete

Wicked Monk: There may be no better-looking Irish pub in Brooklyn than the Wicked Monk, but that is not the only reason to celebrate at this Bay Ridge bar. The Monk will be getting in the spirit with live music every night from March 13 until the

big day, including a traditional Irish seisiun on Saturday 14, 4 pm to 7 pm.

[8415 Fifth Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-0601, www.wickedmonk.com]

For the hungry

Mullaney's Bar and Grill:

When it comes to food, Saint Patrick's Day means one thing: corned beef and cabbage. Okay, and bangers and mash. That's four things. Come get nostalgic to traditional Irish music on the stereo and soak up the beer with the Fantastic Four of Irish cuisine.

[71 Lafayette Ave. at S. Elliot Place in Fort Greene, (718) 797-7606, www.mullaneybrooklyn.com]

For the laid-back

Kitty Kiernan's: Looking for a low-key way to celebrate the holiday? Head to Kitty Kiernan's, which claims the distinguished title of "first Irish bar and lounge on Third Avenue." For the holiday weekend, the bar will have the same Guinness



A cure for what ails ye: Wicked Monk bartender Tylor Keegaghan hoists a glass of Ireland's most drunk export, just in time for Saint Patrick's Day.

pints and jukebox as ever.

[9715 Third Ave. between Marine Avenue and 97th Street in Bay Ridge, www.kittykiernans.com, (718) 921-0217]

For the seriously Irish

Rocky Sullivan's: If you want to get a heavy dose of Irish pride, as opposed to Irish-American pride, head over to Rocky Sullivan's in Red Hook. The watering hole

holds regular talks on Irish culture and the Irish language, and is home to the studio of "Radio Free Eireann," a weekly show on WBAI. The Sullivan's celebrations include a parade honoring the Irish language. It leaves from the bar at 7 pm on March 15.

[34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-8050, www.rockysullivan-sredhook.com]



Hair of the actual dog: Mike Butler with his beloved dog Seamus the Labradoodle at last year's Bay Ridge parade.

St. Paddy's on the wagon

Celebrate without hangovers

By The Brooklyn Paper Teetotaler Bureau
The Brooklyn Paper

Most people associate Saint Patrick's Day with getting wasted. But it doesn't have to be that way!

There are plenty of Brooklyn events

on and around the big day for people who don't want to spend the week throwing-up green beer—not least of all the borough's two big parades. Here is a guide our celebrating sober.

Parade 1.0: The first of Brooklyn's two parades will be in Park Slope the weekend before Saint Patrick's Day, kicking off at 12:45 pm

with the annual re-dedication ceremony to the heroes and victims of 9-11, before the march steps off in a loop around Seventh Avenue and Prospect Park West between 15th Street and Garfield Place

[Prospect Park West at 15th Street in Park Slope, www.brooklynstpatricksparade.com]. March 15 at 1 pm. Free.

Beginners' luck: If you're looking for a healthier way to celebrate with your kids than buying them a Shamrock Shake, the Brooklyn Children's Museum is hosting classes on Irish traditions for little ones aged 2.5-5. The youngsters will also make a rainbow mobile to take home.

Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. between Saint Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org]. March

14-15 at 2:30 pm and March 17 at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Free with museum admission.

Where's me gold?: Williamsburg's Nitehawk Cinema will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day by screening the first "Leprechaun" movie, featuring that guy from "Willow" as the least terrifying horror movie bad guy of all time, and the immortal line "F--- you, Lucky Charms."

Nitehawk Cinema [136 Metropolitan Ave. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-3980, www.nitehawkcinema.com]. March 17 at 9:30 pm. \$15.

Green and red: This is a different kind of Irish dancing. Wasabasso Burlesque will perform its fifth Saint Patrick's Day for Sinners show at the Bell House, featuring only red-headed performers getting

See **SOBER** on page 10

MUSIC

He plays harp

This guy really harps on. Harmonica master Jia-yi He is blowing through Bay Ridge for Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd's Arts on the Corner Series on March 15.



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

The Beijing-born musician said the European-invented instrument is big in his native China, but He didn't pick up the mouth organ for its popularity, He said.

"At the time we could not afford to buy a piano," said He, a Queens resident who grew up in

Beijing and moved to the U.S. in 1998 to have an easier time traveling to play shows.

The virtuoso will play a dizzy array of harps, including a wheel harmonica, which he busted out on season five of "America's Got Talent," and a melodica — a cross between harmonica and a keyboard. And there will be theatrics.

"In a song, there's four harmonicas I'll be holding in my hand in order to play," He said.

One of He's signature pieces is "Flight of the Bumblebee" — composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's lightning-fast operatic interlude. The feat is particularly tough on harmonica, where players are physically limited in their ability to intone the instrument, He said.

"Piano players use many fingers, but with harmonica you only have one mouth," He said.

A string quartet will accompany He, but the harp virtuoso doesn't stick to classical. He plays the blues, polkas, and even a little Gershwin.

He also teaches at the Turtle Bay Music School in distant Manhattan and leads a free group class in Central Park every year for Make Music New York. The maestro instructed and jammed with former Mayor Mike Bloomberg during the festival in 2012.

"He learned for about 30 minutes and played pretty good, so we played together," He said.

Jia-yi He and Friends present "Harmonica Harmony" at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd [7420 Fourth Ave. between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-8520, www.artonthecorner.org]. Free.

— Max Jaeger

EVENT

Rent is rising

They're painting by numbers.

Artists who put on the hot-button show "The Gentrification of Brooklyn: The Pink Elephant Speaks" in 2010 are revisiting the ever-pertinent issue of rising rents with a talk about their own Kings County real estate experiences at the Brooklyn Historical Society. The original exhibition garnered a lot of attention — and prompted fierce online debate — and the organizer said the paintings coming down was just the beginning.

"We had this conversation five years ago, and now I want to explore how their lives have changed in the past five years," said curator Dexter Wimberly, who organized both events. "I want to hear what their challenges are related to housing and studio space and all the other things that go along with living in a place that is gentrifying so quickly."

The panel, set for March 17, will include Oasa Sun DuVerney, Nathan Kensinger, and Sarah Nelson Wright, all of whom had work in the original show, as well as Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art director James Bartlett.

The economic situation for working artists has only gotten more dire since the group last saw each other, Wimberly said.

"Back then, people were still debating the implication of things like the Barclays Center or the mall on Flatbush Avenue," said Wimberly, who was born in Brooklyn in 1973.

The original exhibit ran at the African diaspora museum for four months and featured more than 20 artists. He plans to invite each of them to sit in the audience at the talk.

"At the very least, it will make for a very lively Q&A session," he said.

"The Gentrification of Brooklyn Five Years Later" at the Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111, www.brooklynhistory.org]. March 17 at 6:30 pm. Free.

— Danielle Furfaro

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Photo by Steve Solomonson

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS’ PICKS

FRIDAY

March. 13



Space jam

It’s a space party, Jim, but not as we know it. Brooklyn experimental theater company Title:Point is throwing a bash that really lives up to its name of 100% Outer Space Party. There will be a talk by an astrophysicist, a reading of space-themed erotica, a Neil DeGrasse Tyson musical, live sci-fi music, a space-photo booth, space T-shirt printing, space drinks, and more space things.

8 pm at Silent Barn (603 Bushwick Ave. between Melrose and Jefferson streets in Bushwick, www.silentbarn.org), \$10.

SATURDAY

March 14

Blades of glory

Forget the Great White Way — head to the great white ice-skating rink at the Prospect Park, which is hosting a Winter Broadway afternoon. Skate along to Broadway hits and win tickets to shows.

1–4 pm LeFrak Center at Lakeside [171 East Dr. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 462–0010, www.lakesidebrooklyn.com]. \$6 (plus skate rental).



SUNDAY

March 15

Big beer

Microbrews are so passe. The Diamond bar is hosting a macro-brew blind-tasting contest, where you can win a \$20 bar tab by identifying four mass-produced beers — such as Budweiser and Miller — on taste alone. The competition also coincides with a chili cook-off. Five bucks lets you sample the entrants and vote for a winner.

3–5 pm at the Diamond [43 Franklin St. at Calyer Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383–5030, www.thediamondbrooklyn.com]. \$5.

TUESDAY

March 17

The mope show

Break out your best flannel and your broodiest facial expressions — Sebadoh, the original angsty ‘90s lo-fi band, is in town. Lou Barlow and co. released their first album in 14 years back in 2013. Just listen politely through those songs while waiting for the classics.

9 pm at the Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486–5400, www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com]. \$20.



THURSDAY

March 19

Back in hardback

The former Bard of Boerum Hill Jonathan Lethem returns to his hometown for the New York launch of his latest short story collection “Lucky Alan and Other Stories.”

7 pm at PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049, www.powerhousearena.com]. Free.



NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MARCH 13

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, GIRLS NAMES, FLAAMING-GOS: \$12 (\$10 in advance). 8 pm. Saint Vitus (1120 Manhattan Avenue between Clay and Box streets in Greenpoint), www.saintvitusbar.com.

MUSIC, ALEX KELLY: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

THEATER, “OLD PAPER HOUSES”: Piehole Theater Collective presents an original performance piece following a group of idealists searching for meaning and purpose in a freezing New England winter. \$18. 7:30 pm. Iroindale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488–9233], www.irondale.org.

THEATER, “BROTHERS FROM THE BOTTOM”: The Billie Holiday Theatre kicks off its two-year residency at the Brooklyn Music School Playhouse with this play about gentrification in New Orleans, starring Wendell Pierce. \$20–\$30. 8 pm. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse [126 Saint Felix St. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 638–5660], brooklynmusic-school.org.

OTHER

ART, “THE BIRTHDAY PARTY”: Artist Sandra Rocha debuts her solo exhibition “The Birthday Party,” a collection of paintings depicting women at birthday parties, while commenting on age and femininity. Free. 11 am–7 pm. RePOP [143 Roebling St. between Metropolitan Avenue and Hope Street in Williamsburg, (718) 260–8032], www.repopny.com.

ART, “POEMS FOR THE BREAKING OF SPELLS”: An exhibition of artist, activist, and educator Ché Baraka’s work exploring cultural and social tropes found in African American culture. Free. 11 am–6 pm. The Skylight Gallery [1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636–6900], www.restorationplaza.org.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, MARCH 13

SPORTS, 2015 ATLANTIC 10 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarterfinals, session four. \$26–\$62. Noon.

SPORTS, 2015 ATLANTIC 10 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarterfinals, session five. \$26–\$62. 6:30 pm.

SAT, MARCH 14

SPORTS, 2015 ATLANTIC 10 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: Semifinals, session six. \$36–\$72. 1:30 pm.

SUN, MARCH 15

SPORTS, 2015 ATLANTIC 10 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: Finals, session seven. \$36–\$77.50. 1 pm.

FRI, MARCH 20

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. MILWAUKEE BUCKS: \$30–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

MON, MARCH 23

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. BOSTON CELTICS: \$22–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

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Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

SAT, MARCH 14

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, EXCITER, THE RODS, BROCCAS HELM, OCTOBER 31, CAUCHEMAR, HIGH SPIRITS, NATUR: \$40. 4 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebell-houseny.com.

MUSIC, NASIMIYU: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.

THEATER, THE GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS: Chinese troupe performs acrobatics and traditional dances in costume. \$25. 2 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort and Kenilworth places in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

SUN, MARCH 15

PERFORMANCE

DANCE, DON QUIXOTE: Performed by the Moscow City Ballet. \$36–\$45. 3 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort and Kenilworth places in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

MUSIC, OVERTURES: The Gallery Players performs staged readings of new musicals. \$10. 7 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352–3101], www.galleryplayers.com.

See 9 DAYS on page 10

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Pack animal

Crummy tells all, namely, role as pol’s carrier pigeon

You know what they say: “Get ahead of the news before you become the news.” Or something like that. Well, this is my attempt to clear my good name in advance of the media circus that is sure to follow. This is my story.

Over the weekend, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina announced on “Meet the Press” that he has never sent an e-mail. He stopped short of admitting he has never sent a text message, though I know for a fact he hasn’t. I know because I’ve been moonlighting as Sen. Graham’s carrier pigeon since 2007. I’ve never asked who the bird was before me. I don’t want to know his name. I don’t want to know what happened to him.

Before you get all, “Crummy, why are you dipping your beak into the political waters? Stick to the Nets,” let me explain myself.

First, let me say, I’m not proud of it. I got into this racket because the Nets were going nowhere fast, constantly circling the drain. They were a disaster in New Jersey. They’ve had some halfway decent times in Brooklyn thus far, but nothing to bring them a following that would get me enough clicks to pull me away from working for Graham. The money is too good.

A bird with my experience can net close to \$500 a night, plus the scraps from whatever Graham’s caterers whipped up for the night.

And what an ingenious move on his part to join the subcommittee on privacy, technology and the law. It’s the perfect ruse. No one expects a senator on a technology subcommittee to rem-

inisce about the town crier, which Graham does, regularly. He’d ride everywhere on horseback if it weren’t for everybody having a dang telegraph-enabled Polaroid in their pocket, as he likes to say.

It’s not just Graham either, there are other politicians who employ pigeons’ services. I won’t name names. Despite the common slur — rat with wings — I’m no rat. (I know



you’re asking yourself if Hillary Clinton had some poultry on the payroll — all I can say is there was no line in the state department budget for it.) And in the wake of the extinction of our passenger pigeon brethren just more than a century ago, we common pigeons have figured out the business. It involves more train-hopping and grappling hooks than it did in the pure old days some are so fond of reminiscing about, but we get the job done.

I’ve seen some things, man. If you think my bird’s-eye view from the rafters at the Rust Bowl yields some juicy insight into the Brooklyn franchise, you wouldn’t believe what I know about the game of world diplomacy.

Just a couple weeks ago I saw an albatross take off with a message for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu marked “for anyone but Obama’s eyes only.” Personally, I’ve been on the payroll since 2007, but I haven’t been asked to take any transatlantic trips. I’m a strictly domestic bird. Lindsey uses the bigger haulers for that. Sometimes they don’t return. It’s a



Associated Press / Frank Franklin II



Associated Press / Pablo Martinez Monsivais

high stakes game we’re playing, but like I said, the money is good.

Now that I’ve got that off my chest, and might soon be out of my most lucrative post,

I better really hunker down on the local basketball team. So, fear not, loyal readers, I got your Nets update right here: The team stinks! How’s that for analysis?

(Above) Consider this shot from the Nets’ March 6 loss against the Phoenix Suns your friendly reminder that Brooklyn’s home team still stinks. (Left) You know how George Washington said “I cannot tell a lie?” Well, Sen. Lindsey Graham cannot send an e-mail.

Our Nets gave away the game against Phoenix. Indiana and Boston have passed them in the standings. Just when you thought that game against Golden State was the turning point, they reminded you exactly who they are: a bunch of old guys, past their prime, unwilling to recognize the changing times.

Hm, that sounds familiar, doesn’t it?

Fourth Ave. overhaul

City putting big bucks towards redesign

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

The city wants to overhaul Fourth Avenue as part of its latest push to make dangerous streets safer.

The street that stretches from Bay Ridge to Atlantic Terminal is one on a list of hairy thoroughfares up for \$250 million worth of rejiggering, announced as part of the mayor’s preliminary budget last week. Details, including how much of Fourth Avenue would be affected, have not yet been announced, but the Department of Transportation has floated tree-lined medians, physically separated bike lanes, and sidewalk expansions as some possible measures. A road-safety activist who has worked with Park Slope’s 78th Precinct on reckless driving enforcement measures said that reshaping roads is another key component of the city’s Vision Zero push, which is meant to end traffic deaths by 2024.

“I don’t think we can underestimate the importance of infrastructure upgrades,” Eric McClure said. “Police can’t be everywhere. Education plays an important role, but engineering becomes really important in creating safe spaces.”

Work will not begin on major Brooklyn streets — the East New York leg of Atlantic Avenue is also up for a redesign — for another two years, transportation department Commissioner Polly



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Cars zoom down Fourth Avenue, the crash-prone thoroughfare that the city has singled out for a redesign in its preliminary budget.

Trottenberg told the Council on March 5.

Between 2009 and 2013, six pedestrians were killed on Fourth Avenue and 55 were seriously injured, while Atlantic Avenue saw four pedestrian fatalities and 60 serious injuries during the same stretch, according to city data.

McClure, who lives in Park Slope and is an avid cyclist, said that Fourth Avenue provides a straight shot toward Downtown and Manhattan, but he usually avoids it on bike because speeding drivers and a lack of separated cycling lanes make it a dicey proposition.

“Sometimes if I’m in a hurry I’ll take Fourth Ave., but it generally is not my first choice,” he said. “Bike lanes would certainly be a benefit.”

Proposed pedestrian-friendly modifications of

sections of Fourth in Park Slope and Bay Ridge have sparked heated debate in recent years, and both community boards have rejected early city plans, demanding tweaks from the city, which in some cases they got. The community board and police precinct in Sunset Park, on the other hand, invited such a redesign, and the city says crashes have decreased and drive times have remained the same since it narrowed the road from six lanes to four through the neighborhood in late 2012.

The city has long planned to widen the median from Atlantic Avenue to 65th Street, and overhaul the crash-prone intersection of Fourth Avenue and 86th Street in Bay Ridge. The city has not yet made clear what its latest money allocation will add to those plans.

Pol to mayor: Let kids lift off on Lunar New Year

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The city should hurry up and give schoolkids Lunar New Year off now that it has declared two Muslim holidays

stay-home days, according to a Dumbo pol.

State Sen. Daniel Squadron, pushed through state legislation last year aimed at making the holiday widely cel-

ebrated in Asian cultures an official school holiday. Mayor DeBlasio and the education department’s announcement last week that Islamic holy days Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr are

being made official days off irked Squadron, who pointed out that DeBlasio promised to move on Lunar New Year.

“The evolution of the school calendar is a testament to the

diversity of the city,” Squadron said. “The mayor made a pledge and it should be kept.”

Lunar New Year is the biggest day of the year for many

Asian societies. Nearly 90 percent of students in some areas of the city, including Sunset Park, are absent from school when Lunar New Year falls on a weekday, Squadron said.

My son got into Stuyvesant!

I am thrilled that my son, Eli, got into Stuyvesant High School.

And I’m scared s---. Visiting the tall tower together this fall, listening to the exciting stories of the cheerleader and football player who led us on a tour, it seemed like a no-brainer that Eli, who tests well, would place the school first. He had a shot, and why not dream big?

After all, dreams are catalysts to pull us forward into a place that feels good and natural if we let them. And yet I know from experience how scary it is to set one’s goals high, to place expectations on oneself that will inevitably require a slew of hard work and place one in a competitive realm that could be incredibly stressful. And for what?

Where is it that my son is trying to go, and is it worth it?

I have had to ask myself the same question, repeatedly, as I fall to pieces over trying to do difficult things, like starting a nonprofit to help kids connect through the arts.

The last time my mother was in town, I lost it at the

kitchen table.

“I am completely overwhelmed,” I said, between sobs, “and I have no idea what to do about it.”

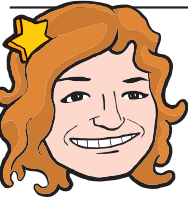
She shook her head and looked at me, eyes filled with sympathy and exasperation both — this had been the same old refrain for a while.

“I just don’t understand why you have to dream so big,” she said,

I thought when she said it she was crazy, but then I thought, maybe she’s right. Maybe it is better to lower one’s expectations to reasonable easily-achievable goals. After all, how much is too much to expect?

Unfortunately, now it is too late.

It seems my children have already been affected by what I call my “Big Dream Syndrome,” for better or for worse. Eli, at 7 or 8, boldly exclaimed that he wanted to go to Harvard. I remember wondering where in the world he might have gotten the notion, since I don’t recall ever pushing it or even mentioning it. But he had somehow heard it was the



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

best school, and decided that’s where he wanted to go. I remember, even at the time, wondering if, in fact, Harvard is all it is cracked up to be. If, in fact, it would be the best place for his active little brain. If, in fact, he could even get in.

But words people utter, even at a young age, mean something, and so I took it seriously.

Now, as he prepares to accept the opportunity to go to Stuyvesant, and the stories of crazy homework and super-competitive kids abound, I wonder to myself, (with my mother’s voice in my head), “Why does he have to dream so big? Maybe he should go somewhere a little less tough, a place with a few fewer expectations?”

And then I remember we

are who we are. I believe there is a path for us, and even if it is a difficult one, we are going to have to follow it to see where it goes. We’re going to have to suffer the trials and tribulations of that particular road because that is the one we’ve been put on. Certainly he is blessed to have the opportunity he’d hoped for, and so he must move forward, fear be damned.

Having a dream, a vision of what one might actually be able to achieve, is impor-

tant. The size of that dream, I guess, is commensurate with the star you were born under and what surrounds you in support of those dreams, but I believe that people can go incredibly far if only someone looks into their eyes, and tells them that they can.

So I say to my mother, to myself, and to my kids — my birthed ones and the ones I work with in schools — it is okay to dream big. You just have to take it step by step and relax and enjoy it along the way.

And you have to be flexible, as dreams are metaphors not literal to-dos, and if it so happens that one dream doesn’t come true, try, try again. Dare to come up with yet another big dream.

I’ve got my fingers crossed.

CENTER...

Continued from page 1 Stanton, and Etta Jones are just a few of the big names who have graced the stage.

“Contrary to popular belief, seniors do venture out after dark,” said Harold Valle, who hosts the jazz nights. “We need a place to go.”

The Administration for Children’s Services, which helps fund the daycare center, is the city agency responsible for holding up the renewal, according to Claudette Macey, director of the Fort Greene Council. The senior center could get a separate lease paid for with money from the city’s Department for the Aging, she said.

“ACS is sitting on the fence,” Macey said. “They’re playing a game.”

The lease expires in September, but the landlord has been receiving unsolicited offers for the building, and is threatening to put it on the market this week to see what interest it generates, Macey said, meaning time is running out.

“The city is stalling so it will get late, and then it will be too late turn back,” she said.

A spokesman for the children’s agency said it wants to keep the programs where they are.

“The Administration for Children’s Services is actively

working with our partner city agencies to renew the lease at this site in an effort to continue providing quality early care and education services to children in Fort Greene,” Christopher McNiff said.

Clinton Hill resident Ebony Jenkins’s 4-year-old daughter is in the daycare program, and she said they both love it — and that it is important to have it close to home.

“You don’t want to travel far with your child,” she said. “It’s a vital part of our community.”

Jenkins’s fiancée and his siblings all attended programs there growing up, she added. “We have so much history with that place,” she said. “It’s a real staple in our family.”

The Fort Greene Council’s kid and senior resources aren’t the only ones threatened by rising rents. Up in Williamsburg, the Swinging Sixties Center and Small World Daycare and Learning Center have been embroiled in a legal battle since 2013, when a father-and-son team bought their building, increased the rent, and moved to evict them. Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Williamsburg) is pushing a bill that would allow the city to take ownership of the building, where it has paid the rent since the 1970s.

— with Danielle Furfaro

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HELP WANTED

Employment Opportunities with Life's WORC.

Named one of the Best Places to Work in NY State by SHRM & Crain's Magazine!

Life's WORC is a leading agency providing services to people with developmental disabilities and autism. We understand that helping these individuals live a rich and full life takes a special person - someone who is dedicated, caring and compassionate - so that is how we treat our employees!

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Tuesdays, March 10th & 24th
Please come with your resume
Arrive any time between 9:30am-2:30pm at the Hotel Pennsylvania
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1 West 129th Street, NYC:
•Managerial & Supervisory •Med Counselors
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Some benefits include:
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Visit our website at lifesworc.org to learn more about our Agency
All positions require some experience in the field and a valid NY State Driver's License
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

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ADOPTION: A childless young married couple, hands on mom/ devoted dad (she-31/ he-37) seeks to adopt. Financial security, expenses paid. Call/ text Mary & Adam 1-800-790-5260

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Construction, Restaurants, Stores, Cashiers, Domestic and more....
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Queens 718-947-3673
Nassau 516-634-2117
Suffolk 631-729-2384
Bronx/Westchester 914-470-9929
www.ablehealthcare.com

JOB INFORMATION

Leticia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads
Toll numbers may be a direct line to trouble. Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."

Office of the
Public Advocate

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training. Financial aid for qualified students - Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call AIM 866-296-7093

To Place A
Classified Ad
Call
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JOB INFORMATION

AVON Career or pocket money you decide Call Brandie (Ind Sls rep) 1-800-305-3911 Or sign up online: www.startavon.com Reference code:gsm For award winning support

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Let's move forward together.



New York City needs well-paid, well-equipped police officers — and more of them — to build a brighter future.

Like all New Yorkers, police officers want to live and work in a city on the rise. We want safe streets, fair treatment and economic security. We want to work with the public to achieve these goals for ourselves, for our families, and for every person in this city.

But we can't effectively engage with the community while **short staffing** leaves us racing from call to call. We can't protect our city and ourselves from new threats **without the right equipment**. And we can't expect our finest police officers to meet the professional demands of 21st century policing, while still offering them **below-market pay** and **inadequate disability protections**.

Our city's economic outlook is bright, but these important public safety needs remain unfulfilled. Let's move forward together today by giving police officers the support and resources they need to protect New York City's tomorrow.

Support your police officers for a stronger, safer city.



Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of the City of New York

125 Broad Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10004 • 212-233-5531

Patrick J. Lynch, President

www.nycpba.org